

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein foaming of the ceramic slip is achieved using a ball mill in conjunction with gassing and/or a blowing agent.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic slip has a viscosity in the range of from 30 to 100 mPas.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic particulate is biocompatible.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic particulate comprises one or more of hydroxyapatite, a substituted-hydroxyapatite, a glass, an AW-glass ceramic and/or alumina.

31C.3 8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic particulate has a d_{50} of from 1 to 300 μm , preferably from 1 to 15 μm .

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic particulate has a surface area in the range of from 5 to 200 m^2g^{-1} .

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic binder comprises one or more of poly (vinyl alcohol), poly (vinyl pyrrolidone), alginate, poly (lactic acid), poly (vinyl butyral), poly (ethylene glycol) and/or poly (vinyl acetate).

11. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid carrier comprises water, propan-2-ol or trichloroethane.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the organic binder is present in the liquid carrier in an amount of from 0.2 to 10 w/v%.

A3 14. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic slip comprises from 10 to 95 w/v% ceramic particulate.

A4 16. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramic slip further comprises one or both of a dispersant and/or a defloculant.

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein prior to burn-out of the organic binder the liquid carrier is allowed to evaporate from the foamed carrier slip.

A5 19. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17 [or claim 18], wherein the concentration of the organic binder in the liquid carrier is selected such that the percentage of binder remaining after substantially all of the liquid carrier has been evaporated is from 0.5 to 10 w/w%.

21. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foamed ceramic slip is cast in a mould having a surface coated with a release agent.

A6 22. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein burn-out of the organic binder is carried out at a temperature in the range of from 150 to 700°C.

23. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising sintering the ceramic foam following burn-out of the organic binder.

A7 25. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a bulk porosity in the range of from 40 to 95%, preferably from 70 to 90%.

26. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a strut density in the range of from 60 to 95%, preferably from 70 to 90% of the theoretical density of the ceramic.

27. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the sintered ceramic foam has a modal pore size in the range of from 100 to 2000 μm , preferably from 100 to 1000 μm .

28. (Amended) A macroporous ceramic foam obtainable by a method according to claim 1.

30. (Amended) A composition which comprises a macroporous ceramic foam, or a synthetic bone material as claimed in claim 29 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

31. (Amended) A bone implant, filler, cement, tissue engineering scaffold, synthetic bone graft or drug-delivery device which comprises a macroporous ceramic foam, a synthetic bone material or a composition as claimed in claim 30.